

REMARKS:

Claims 23 – 45 have been pending. One group of these, claims 23, 24, 26, 29-31, 34, 35, 37, 38 and 40-44 have been rejected. A second group, claims 25, 28, 32, 33 and 36 have been objected to.

In response, claims 23, 26, 27, and 37 from the first group of rejected claims have been amended to clarify a claimed embodiment. The language added “combustion chamber cover (4)” more particularly recites a desirable embodiment, and is supported by the specification, for example, in paragraph 36, “means of support is accommodated in the combustion chamber cover 4.” Accordingly, no new matter has been added.

Applicants thank the Examiner for inviting the rewriting of the second group of claims in independent form including all the elements of the original base claim and any intervening claims. These 5 claims have been rewritten as new claims 45 – 49, with all elements of their base claims and intervening claims.

Rejection of Claims 23, 24, 26, 29-31, 34, 35, 37, 38 and 40-44 on Anticipation Grounds

Applicants point out that their apparatus generally is more robust and simpler to construct than that of the cited art, partly because of the structural support engendered by having a cover means 13 that is integral and strong, and structurally attachable to a support means 16 that, by itself, in an embodiment holds the cover means firmly within the combustion chamber cover (4) and thereby unique, novel and non-obvious. In a preferred embodiment, the combustion chamber cover (4), with the support means (16) represents the more massive part of the device and other parts generally connect to these large parts for strength. This allows a more easy construction and more robust structural integrity. The recited “support means” and “cover means” of amended claim 23, with their specified locations and interrelationships with other parts provide this unique construction which delivers the beneficial strength qualities. To more clarify this attribute, claim 23 has been amended.

Anticipation Rejection Over Mongia

Mongia’s liner end wall 46 generally is not “substantially concentrically oriented” but only a small portion resides around the injector (78), contrary to the claim recitation. Thus, this feature of the Mongia device does not meet this limitation of all the claims. Furthermore, Mongia’s liner end wall 46 extends along the combustion chamber past orifices 88 and as far as cooling skirts 48(a) and 50(a), and does not meet the claim 23 recitation of “rewardly located with respect to the combustion chamber.” Accordingly, Mongia does not disclose these elements of claim 23.

Mongia further does not meet the limitation of being “accommodated interiorly within the combustion chamber cover” as recited in claim 23, as amended. Mongia’s end wall 46 does not extend into a combustion chamber cover. Arguably, Mongia’s end wall 46 forms part of the combustion chamber cover, as seen in the bottom of Fig. 3, but only part 80 extends into the cover itself. Part 80 does not provide the recited structure to a control element or a control element holder. Thus, this element is not met by Mongia. Clearly, Mongia’s parts are not

organized around such a structural connections, as claimed. These features are not found, either literally or inherently and are therefore not anticipated.

For these several reasons, Mongia does not anticipate claim 23. The remainder of group 1 claims depend on claim 23, include these same claim elements, and are therefore also not anticipated. Reconsideration of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Anticipation Rejection Over Cornelius

The rotatable sleeve 66 of Cornelius is asserted to be the claimed element of “first cover means” (page 8, top of the office action). Cornelius states in column 4, lines 65-68 that his sleeve cover means 66 surfaces “bear against the interior support on which it rotates” (i.e. 22). However, the drum 22 onto which cover means 66 rotates does not provide supporting connections and locations, as claimed, to control elements. As proof of this, Cornelius’s Fig. 6 shows overall structure, but this structure completely lacks drum 22. Also, drum 22 does not penetrate a combustion chamber cover, as now recited in claim 26. Rather than form the structure and support for the device, part 22 of Cornelius happens to be a wall of a larger structure. This is very different from structure 16 of the present specification, which is depicted in Fig. 3 and claimed in claim 23.

Because Cornelius does not describe this element of claim 23, Cornelius does not anticipate claim 23 and the claims dependent on claim 23. Reconsideration and removal of this rejection respectfully are requested.

New Claims 45-49, Rewritten from Claims 25, 28, 32, 33 and 36

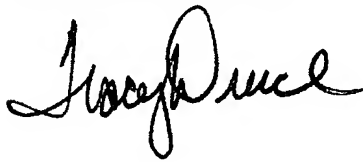
Objected to claims 25, 28, 32, 33 and 36 have been redrafted as new claims 45 – 49, with all recitations of their base claims and intervening claims, as suggested by the Examiner on page 11 of the office action. Consideration and allowance of the re-drafted claims cordially are requested.

The undersigned representative requests any extension of time that may be deemed necessary to further the prosecution of this application.

The undersigned representative authorizes the Commissioner to charge any additional fees under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 or 1.17 that may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 14-1437, Order No. 07589.0175.PCUS00.

In order to facilitate the resolution of any issues or questions presented by this paper, the Examiner should directly contact the undersigned by phone to further the discussion.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tracy Druce", written in a cursive style.

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